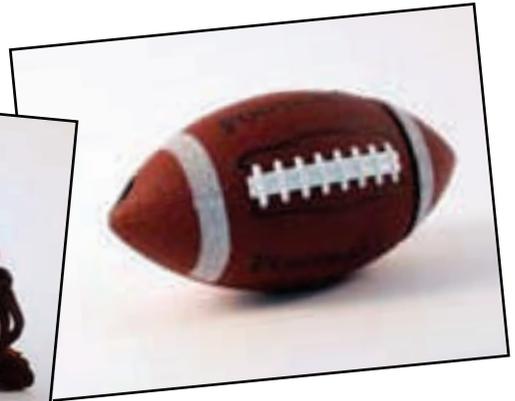




Toylike Lighters:

Playing with Fire





Novelty Lighters

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Each year toylike or novelty lighters are responsible for numerous injuries and deaths across our nation. Children are attracted to these lighters because they look like toys. Many are made to look like animals, miniature cars, mobile phones, cameras, fishing lures, stacks of coins, markers and doll accessories.

What is a Novelty or Toylike Lighter?

Novelty lighters are defined as lighters that have features that make them attractive to children under five, including lighters with features entertaining to children, such as visual effects like flashing lights, or sound effects like musical notes.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) adopted a safety standard in 1994 requiring disposable cigarette lighters be manufactured to child resistant standards. This safety standard has been highly effective in reducing child fatalities nationwide.

Injuries and Worse...

- On September 25, 2007, 15-month-old Peyton Edwards and 2-year-old Breydon Edwards of Russellville, Arkansas, died after setting fire to their apartment with a motorcycle-shaped lighter.
- In June 2007, 6-year-old Shane St. Pierre picked up a miniature baseball bat in a grocery store, thinking it might be a flashlight light, and flicked the switch. A flame shot out, burning his brow and part of his face.
- A 6-year-old boy in North Carolina sustained second-degree burns after playing with a lighter that looked like a toy cell phone.
- In Maryland, playground equipment was set on fire by three 5-year-old girls using a gun shaped lighter.
- In Oregon, one child died and another was permanently brain damaged after a 6-year-old, playing with a lighter that looked like a dolphin, started a fire.
- A 5-year-old using a horse lighter started a fire that resulted in over \$50,000 worth of damage to his home.

What can be done?

Some local and State governments are taking action by banning the sale of toylike and novelty lighters and limiting their distribution. Maine was the first State to pass a ban on toylike and novelty lighters, passing the legislation on March 14, 2008. Tennessee also passed a ban in April 2008. In addition to State bans and restrictions on the sale of toylike and novelty lighters, numerous local jurisdictions have passed ordinances.

